

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ASSESSMENT OF EMS
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT TEAM
AUGUST 23-26, 1999**

RECOMMENDATIONS * Duplicate Recommendation		Current Authority	Refer to Vision	Vision Committee	Funding Necessary	Regulation(s) Needed	Legislation Needed
REGULATION AND POLICY							
1	The EMS Authority should aggressively pursue consistent statewide standardization and coordination of treatment, transport, communications and evaluation. While there should be uniform, minimum standards, there should also be reasonable provisions for local flexibility in exceeding those standards.	X	X	B		X	
2	The EMS Authority, in collaboration with its EMS partners, should develop a state EMS plan.*	X					
3	The EMS Authority and counties should pursue adequate and stable funding for local EMS agencies and for the state EMS Authority for administration, system planning and evaluation activities.		X	A	X		X
4	There should be consistent and uniformly enforced regulations (not guidelines) for EMS provider service licensing, facility designation, EMS personnel licensing and medical direction.*	X				X	X
5	There should be uniform statewide licensing of <u>all</u> levels of EMS services (providers) including public, private and air medical services. This should include a process for license suspension, revocation or other disciplinary actions.*		X	B			X
6	There should be uniform and consistent statewide licensing of all EMS prehospital personnel. This should include a process for license suspension, revocation or other disciplinary actions.*		X	C		X	X
7	EMSA should promulgate regulations that establish Emergency Medical Dispatcher certification/licensure.*	X					X

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8	The EMS Authority, in collaboration with all appropriate EMS stakeholders, should continue the Vision process.	X					
9	The EMS Authority should establish performance standards for LEMSAs and should develop a system for monitoring and evaluating the LEMSA including the provision of technical assistance in areas needing improvement.*	X	X	D			X
10	The EMS Authority should convene the Interdepartmental Committee on Emergency Medical Services (1797.132) to assure improved coordination and collaboration with other departments which have authority over other components of the EMS system such as hospital licensing standards, California Children's Services and Injury Prevention.*	X					
11	The EMS Authority should write, and help shepherd through the legislative process, legislation to assure confidentiality and non-discoverability of EMS and trauma records, and EMS provider protection while participating in EMS Quality Improvement (QI) activities.*		X	D			X
12	The EMS Authority, in collaboration with the EMS Commission, should re-evaluate which issues should be addressed by guidelines and which areas should be addressed by regulations.	X					
13	The EMS Authority, in collaboration with the EMS Commission, should define the role of the EMS Authority regarding inter-facility transfers on a statewide basis.*	X	X	C			
14	EMSA should acquire a formal state EMS medical director.	X	X	B	X		
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT							
15	Pursue a EMSA Director appointment for sustained, qualified leadership with both administrative and medical expertise.	X	X	B			

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16	Acquire a formal State EMS Medical Director.*	X	X	B	X		
17	Proceed with the development of a comprehensive statewide EMS plan.*	X					
18	Develop and implement more definitive EMSA review criteria and process for LEMSA plans and other requests.*	X	X	D			X
19	Develop a resource assessment process with and through the LEMSAs.*	X	X	D			
20	Increase the availability of technical assistance to existing agencies, counties, and cities through EMSA as specified in current law.	X			X		
21	Establish an Interdepartmental Committee on Emergency Medical Services (1797.132) to assure improved coordination and collaboration with other departments which have authority over other components of the EMS system such as hospital licensing standards, California Children's Services and Injury Prevention.*	X					
22	Continue to improve EMSA-LEMSA and inter- LEMSA communications.	X					
23	Establish a comprehensive statewide EMS and trauma data collection and EMS system resource information system.*		X	D	X	X	X
24	Develop a formal method to orient new EMSA staff to EMS; where possible, establish appropriate EMS experience and expertise as a hiring requirement.	X					
25	Assess the types and locations of EMS recruitment and retention needs, and design interventions for problems identified.	X			X		

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26	Evaluate continuing needs and improvement to service delivery and efficiency of the current poison control arrangement.	X					
HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING							
27	The EMSA should require the use of US Department of Transportation (USDOT) National Standard Curricula at all levels.	X				X	
28	The EMSA should develop and introduce uniform and consistent statewide certification/licensure of <i>all</i> prehospital personnel.*		X	C		X	X
29	The EMSA should standardize EMT-I and EMT-II certification/licensure examination standards.	X	X	C		X	
30	The EMSA and LEMSAs should consider adoption of the National Registry as the EMT-I and EMT-IIs examination.		X	C		X	
31	EMSA should promulgate regulations establishing Emergency Medical Dispatcher as a level of EMS certification/licensure.*	X				X	
32	The EMSA and LEMSAs should secure funding commensurate with the training, certification/licensure, and disciplinary roles for both EMSA and LEMSAs.		X	A	X		X
TRANSPORTATION							
33	Develop and implement a comprehensive EMS plan that includes appropriate transportation elements including those for air medical services.*	X	X	B			X
34	Develop and implement a statewide air medical activation protocol.	X				X	
35	Develop and implement a standardized statewide mutual aid plan for EMS.	X					X
36	The EMSA should develop a statewide evaluation through the LEMSAs, of compliance with the transportation elements of the EMS plan. This evaluation should be repeated at appropriate intervals.*	X	X	B			X

RECOMMENDATIONS * Duplicate Recommendation		Current Authority	Refer to Vision	Vision Committee	Funding Necessary	Regulation(s) Needed	Legislation Needed
37	Develop and implement uniform statewide licensing and inspection standards and procedures that apply to all EMS services both public and private. *		X	B			X
FACILITIES							
38	EMSA should work with the Interdepartmental Committee on EMS to ensure coordination of regulatory function and oversight of such components as emergency department categorization and pediatric intensive care requirements. This coordination should include a mechanism for updates of both standards and regulations on a regular basis.*	X					
39	Interdepartmental Committee on EMS should meet with the representatives of the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California (EMSAAC) and the ADHOC task force attempting to address the concern of emergency department overcrowding, ambulance diversion and helipad availability. The development of ambulance diversion guidelines should be considered.	X					
40	The LEMSA should continually monitor the magnitude of emergency diversion and report to EMSA on a regular basis.	X					
41	EMSA should develop statewide protocols for the triage and transfer of burns (both adult and pediatric) and spinal cord injuries.	X			X		
42	EMSA should develop guidelines for interfacility transfer of specialty care patients. *	X	X	C			
43	EMSA should establish a process to ensure statewide compliance with developed triage and transfer policies.					X	
COMMUNICATIONS							
44	The EMSA should coordinate closely with the Department of General Services in the planning and implementation of a statewide public safety agency telecommunications system and should make a concerted effort to assure the inclusion of emergency medical services in that plan.	X	X	E			

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45	The EMSA should continue to assess EMS communications needs, do EMS communications planning, provide technical assistance to LEMSAs and attempt to secure funding to improve the state EMS communications infrastructure. Ideally, this should be done in coordination with the DGS planning.	X	X	E			
46	EMSA should complete, disseminate and implement a state EMS communications plan.	X	X	E			
47	Emergency Medical Dispatch should become an EMS personnel certification/licensure level and should be required of EMS dispatch centers.*	X	X	E		X	X
48	Any PSAP dispatching emergency medical services calls directly or interacting with callers reporting EMS incidents should be required to take EMD training.		X	E			X
49	EMSA should work to increase the availability of EMD training in the basic dispatcher training programs.		X	E			
50	California Highway Patrol dispatchers should be trained in Emergency Medical Dispatch.	X	X	E	X		X
51	There should be a statewide, interagency communications channel.	X	X	E	X		
52	There should be a statewide medical coordination channel.	X	X	E	X		
53	EMS communications frequency use should be tracked through EMS agency licensing and requirements for access to state interagency communication channels should be required in state licensure regulations.	X				X	
54	Any introduction of a 3-1-1 type access number must have policy and procedures complimentary to current 9-1-1 communications centers.		X	E			X
55	The California Highway Patrol should continue working with new MAYDAY and other technologies and should recognize the potential opportunities to communicate valuable pre-arrival information to emergency medical services providers.		X	E			
56	The EMSA should be integrally involved with the planning for MAYDAY systems and other intelligent transportation system modalities.		X	E			

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57	EMSA and others should support technological and regulatory changes that improve the processing of wireless calls to 9-1-1 including automatic number identification (ANI), automatic location information (ALI) and selective routing to the most appropriate PSAP.	X					
PUBLIC INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND PREVENTION							
58	The prevention component of the state EMS plan should be developed in coordination with other state agencies that have existing prevention programs.	X	X	F			
59	EMSA should use its web site to serve as a clearinghouse for prevention programs including linkages to other web sites.	X					
60	Continue to seek funding sources for statewide and local prevention programs including funding for research to establish the effectiveness of such programs.	X	X	F	X		
61	Ensure that adequate personnel and funding resources are assigned to public information, education and prevention tasks at EMSA.	X	X	F			
62	EMSA should cooperate with the DPH Injury Prevention and Control Plan to ensure coordination of injury prevention activities.	X	X	F			
MEDICAL DIRECTION							
63	The position of the state EMS medical director should be created with a clearly defined role and legislative authority and responsibility for EMS system standards, protocols and evaluation of patient care. Appropriate qualifications, selection process and compensation must accompany this new position.*		X	B			
64	A standing medical advisory committee should be established. The EMDAC is an excellent source of potential physician members. Committee members should be compensated for their time and expertise.	X			X		
65	A statewide minimum scope of practice should be established for all levels of EMS providers.		X	B			
66	Statewide minimum patient care standards, treatment protocols and triage guidelines should be established for all levels of EMS providers.		X	B			

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67	LEMSA medical directors should have the authority to grant the privilege of practice to all EMS providers in their region.	X	X	B			X
68	A process should exist that allows a LEMSA medical director to petition EMSA to enhance the scope of practice of EMS providers in their region.	X					
69	Standards should be developed for LEMSA and provider agency medical directors, online medical control base physicians, and Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICNs).	X	X	B			
70	The role and authority of the LEMSA medical director should be clarified and defined by the EMSA.	X					
71	EMSA should define a mechanism to provide physician oversight to review patient care, establish performance indicators and development of ongoing quality improvement programs in the state EMS plan.	X	X	D			
72	EMSA should develop or make available resources that orient, prepare and foster a physician's involvement in California EMS.	X			X		
73	Medical oversight and patient care standards should be developed for interfacility transports.	X	X	C			
TRAUMA SYSTEMS							
74	Mandatory autopsies for all trauma deaths with incorporation of data from such autopsies into the trauma registry.		X	B	X	X	X
75	Information and trends developed from the trauma registry should be utilized in PIER and injury prevention programs.		X	D			
76	Funding should be ensured that the components of the new regulations can all be implemented by both the EMSA and the LEMSA to ensure that a true statewide system plan can be realized. This includes support that will be required for optimal management and utilization of the data systems at both state and LEMSA levels.		X	A	X		

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77	Mechanisms should be delineated to ensure that data on trauma patients from all hospitals that deliver care to these patients must be entered into the LEMSA and state trauma registry and that this is managed in a confidential manner.		X	D		X	X
EVALUATION							
78	Develop a comprehensive, medically directed statewide quality improvement program to evaluate patient care processes and outcomes.		X	D	X		
79	Develop a statewide integrated information system (as described in the Vision document) that will have the capability to monitor, evaluate and elucidate emergency medical services and trauma care in California.*		X	D			
80	Ensure the design capability for linkages of the statewide integrated information system to other public and private data systems.		X	D			
81	Allocate personnel and resources to implement the statewide integrated information system including necessary technical assistance, materials and funding to LEMSAs.		X	D	X		
82	Enforce the use of a uniform prehospital data set consistent with the NHTSA Uniform Prehospital Data Set. Mandate submission of an agreed upon, timely, limited, uniform, common language data set from the LEMSAs to the EMSA.*	X	X	D			
83	Seek ways to improve the number of completed patient care records that are delivered to the ED staff upon patient arrival with a goal of 98% compliance.	X	X	D		X	
84	Request the NHTSA to conduct their Leadership Workshop on Quality Improvement for EMS Systems in California.	X					
85	The EMSA should write, and help shepherd through the legislative process, legislation to assure confidentiality and non-discoverability of EMS and trauma records and EMS provider protection while participating in EMS QI activities.*	X	X	D			X

RECOMMENDATIONS * Duplicate Recommendation		Current Authority	Refer to Vision	Vision Committee	Funding Necessary	Regulation(s) Needed	Legislation Needed
86	Promote, support and reduce barriers to performing EMS research in California. Vigorously develop a statewide human subject review approval process for out-of-hospital research.	X					
DISASTER SYSTEMS							
87	The EMSA should continue to develop emergency medical and health disaster contingency plans.	X	X	B			
88	The EMSA should develop a statewide mutual aid plan for mobilization of EMS and ambulance resources.	X			X		X
89	The EMSA should develop a uniform EMS disaster communication system to ensure that communications be maintained during a disaster.	X	X	E			
90	The EMSA should develop a system to ensure that EMS resources utilized for disaster response be reimbursed.		X	A	X		X